

Claims

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A decoding device for analyzing communication protocols comprising:

a generic decoder into which a limited number of protocol descriptions may be loaded, the protocol descriptions being capable of being interpreted by the generic decoder; and

a specific decoder designed for a certain protocol description, the generic and specific decoders being reversibly connected so that the generic and specific decoders may be updated separately.

Claim 2. (Original) The decoding device as recited in claim 1 wherein the generic decoder comprises at least one element function that may be overlaid by a corresponding element function of the specific decoder.

Claim 3. (Original) The decoding device as recited in claim 2 wherein the one overlaid element function may be interpreted by the generic decoder.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A method of setting up a decoding device comprising the steps of:

provisioning a generic decoder into which a limited number of protocol descriptions of communication protocols may be loaded, the protocol descriptions being capable of being interpreted by the generic decoder;

provisioning a specific decoder for a certain protocol description; and
reversibly connecting the generic and specific decoders to form the decoding device so that the generic and specific decoders may be updated separately.

Claim 5. (Original) The method according to claim 4 wherein the generic decoder comprises at least one element function overlaid by a corresponding element function of the specific decoder during connection of the generic decoding with the specific decoder.